

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing empty container blanks from a material web W-folded in the longitudinal direction, comprising:

a plurality of tools supported by a rotary tool holder, each tool comprises comprising a base element which is fixedly mounted on the tool holder and an engaging element which is pivotable relative to the base element,

wherein base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder,

said rotary tool holder is on rotation being arranged to move each tool along

a working path along which each tool is engageable with the material web for both transversal and longitudinal joining of opposite wall portions of the longitudinal W-folded material web along connecting portions defining outlining said container blanks, and

a return path along which each tool is disengageable from the material web,

each tool being arranged to be moved together with the material web when the tool is moved along said working path, and

said tool holder acting as a deflecting means for the material web when this-the tool holder moves together with the respective tools along said working path.

2. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool is operable between a closed position and an open position, the tool being movable to said closed position to provide said engagement with the material web.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which at least one of the base element and the engaging element of each tool supports a rib, which is arranged to engage the material web in the closed position of the tool.

5. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 4, in which said rib of each tool has an extent that corresponds to the extent of the connecting portion of a container blank.

6. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, in which said rib is supported by an arrangement involving springs, which when moving the tool to said closed position are arranged for a given compression.

7. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool is arranged to provide said joining by heat sealing.

8. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control means which is arranged to engage said tool with, and disengage the same from, the material web.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which the control means comprises a link mechanism for each of the tools and a stationary cam structure, each tool being connected to the cam structure by said link mechanism and the cam structure (16) being arranged, during rotation of the tool holder, to control each tool to be closed and opened, respectively.

10. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which each link mechanism comprises an articulated link arm which is arranged in an over-centred position.

11. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 or 10 ~~when referring back to claim 6~~, in which each link mechanism comprises a roll which is held in a cam groove of the cam structure, a sensor being arranged in the cam groove for sensing the force by which the roll abuts against a bearing surface of the cam groove.

12. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder is rotatably mounted on one side.

13. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a punching station, which is arranged downstream of the tool holder and arranged to punch container blanks along said connecting portions.

14. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 13, in which said punching station is arranged for such punching that a succession of container blanks are connected to each other to form a continuous web of container blanks.

15. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder in operation is arranged for continuous rotation.

16. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a registering mechanism positioned upstream of the tool holder and adapted to sense the tension in the material web and to adjust said tension according to a predetermined value.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing empty container blanks from a material web W-folded in the longitudinal direction by joining both transversally and longitudinally opposite wall portions of the longitudinally W-folded material web along connecting portions defining outlining said container blanks, comprising

deflecting said material web over a tool holder,

rotating the tool holder to move tools supported by the same along a working path, and

by continued rotation of the tool holder, moving the tools along a return path to the beginning of said working path,

each tool, for providing said transversal and longitudinal joining of opposite wall portions of the longitudinally W-folded material web along connecting portions outlining said container blanks, being engaged with the material web by pivoting an engaging element towards a base

element for clamping the material web therebetween, the base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder, and being moved together with said material web during the movement of the tool along said working path.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the material web is folded to a web folded longitudinally in the form of a W.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which said tool holder is rotated continuously to provide continuous production of container blanks .

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which the tool holder is rotated in an indexing motion.